

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please delete the present sheets of drawings containing figures 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and insert in place thereof the new sheets of drawings containing figures 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

## Remarks/Arguments

By the present the applicant wishes to amend the specification including the claims and drawings.

Thus with respect to the claims, the applicant wishes to make a number of editorial amendments thereto. The amendments are set forth in the attached Annex A in the form of an annotated claims list indicating support, inter alia, by incorporating in the claims reference numerals from the figures (i.e. see figures 1 to 7). It is believed that the amendments are self-explanatory from Annex A.

In particular the applicant wishes to amend claim 25 to be in independent format, add a new independent claim 34 as well as delete old claims 5 and 8.

Generally the applicant wishes to present independent claims 1, 25, 32, 33 and 34 so that, as the case may be, they refer, inter alia, to

- a) a primary (fresh or output) air duct element; and
- b) a further or additional secondary (fresh or output) air path means, the further secondary air path means comprising an air duct having first and second ends.

In view of the amendments to the claims the applicant further wishes to amend the text of the specification as outlined above in order for the text of the specification to reflect the new wording of the claims; again it is believed that the amendments are self explanatory.

In particular the applicant wishes to amend the text as well as certain figures with respect to references to first and second ends (41a and 41b) of the air duct of the further secondary air path means (see amendments to page 18) as well as with respect to references to an air inlet (44), a first air outlet (44a), a second air outlet (44b) of the manifold component, (see amendments to page 19). The amendments to the drawings are outlined generally in red on attached copies thereof. If the amendments are acceptable the applicant will provide formal drawings reflecting the amendments mentioned herein.

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 12-16, 18-23, 32 and 33 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of Ukuchi (JP 08-068553) when read with Kurokawa (JP 07 -042990). For the examiner's convenience the applicant is enclosing herewith English translations of these two cited references.

The applicant submits that amended claims 1, 3, 4, 12-16, 18-23, 32 and 33 as well as new claim 34 relate to subject matter that is patentably distinct from Ukuchi when read with Kurokawa.

As mentioned above present independent claims 1, 25, 32, 33 and 34, as the case may be, refer, inter alia, to

- a) a primary (fresh or output) air duct element; and
- b) a further or additional secondary (fresh or output) air path means, the further secondary air path means comprising an air duct having first and second ends.

On the other hand, the applicant notes that the examiner has referred to stale air ducts 11 and 14 of Ukuchi and the stale air duct 3a of Kurokawa. Accordingly, the applicant submits that the cited references together teach away from the subject matter of present independent claims 1, 25, 32, 33 and 34.

Accordingly, the applicant submits that present independent claims 1, 25, 32, 33 and 34 (as well as dependent claims 3, 4, 12-16, 18-23) relate to subject matter that is patentably distinct from the cited references mentioned above.

Hence, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$420.00 (two independent claims in excess of three) to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

If any further fee, whatsoever, with respect to the present application is due, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is in any event hereby authorized to charge such further amount to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

Favourable reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, as mentioned above, the applicant has by separate letter petitioned for a three (3) month extension of time within which to respond to the outstanding Office Letter of July 30, 2007, namely up to and including January 30, 2008. If any further extension of time is necessary, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby petitioned for such an extension and may charge any necessary fees to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

If any further fee, whatsoever, with respect to the present application is due, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is in any event hereby authorized to charge such further amount to our **Deposit Account no. 02-3980.**

In light of the foregoing amendments and comments, favourable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encls.: Petition for Extension of Time (2 pages)  
Response to Office Action (20 pages)  
Three (3) pages of amended drawings  
Annex A (11 pages)  
Three (3) pages of amended drawings outlined in red  
English translation of JP 07-042990  
English translation of JP 08-068553